

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

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SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 IO-10 /036 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3745

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 0911

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, PE

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - CONSULTATIONS

REF: LIMA 0884

1. BRANIFF GROUP, INCLUDING SOUTH AND DE MURIAS, MET WITH AMBASSADOR MORNING OF FEBRUARY 3. THEY SAID THAT BREAKFAST MEETING WITH SOTO HAD BEEN CANCELLED ON PRETEXT THAT CABIESES WAS SUDDENTLY CALLED OUT OF TOWN. MEETING HAS BEEN VERY TENTATIVELY RESCHEDULED FOR WEDNESDAY. SOUTH AND DE MURIAS FEEL STRONGLY THAT TIME HAS NOW COME TO RESTRICT AEROPERU SERVICES. THEY ALSO BELIEVE PRESS STATEMENT SHOULD BE ISSUED PROMPTLY TO MAKE CLEAR, INTER ALIA, THAT BRANIFF HAS NOT ACCEPTED RESTRICTIVE PERMIT AND THAT, CONTRARY TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, ESSENTIAL AGREEMENT HAS NOT IN FACT BEEN ACHIEVED.

2. AMBASSADOR SAID HE WAS IN GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT TIME HAD COME TO TAKE SUSPENSION ACTION BUT THAT HE WISHED TO REVIEW MATTER ONCE AGAIN WITH WASHINGTON TO BE CERTAIN THAT ALL IMPLICATIONS AND POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES OF ACTION WERE CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD. WITH RESPECT TO PRESS RELEASE, HE SAID HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE MORE EFFECTIVE IF IT EMANATED FROM DEPARTMENT, AND THAT EMBASSY WOULD CONSULT DEPARTMENT AND MAKE SUGGESTIONS REGARDING TEXT. (NOTE: EMBASSY WILL REPORT

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TIONS REGARDING TEXT. (NOTE: EMBASSY WILL REPORT

FURTHER TO DEPARTMENT ON THESE TWO POINTS.)

3. IN SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT, DGTA BERCKEMEYER ASKED ECONOMIC COUNSELOR TO CALL AT HIS OFFICE FEBRUARY 3. PURPOSE WAS TO REGISTER COMPLAINT THAT BRANIFF HAD FILED TO FLY FIVE FLIGHTS IN EXCESS OF FIFTEEN WITH TRAFFIC RIGHTS SHORT OF U.S. (I.E., TO GUAYAQUIL, CALI, PANAMA, ETC.). AS REPORTED LIMA 0831 AND 0879, BRANIFF HAD BEEN UNDER IMPRESSION BERCKEMEYER HAD ORALLY AGREED TO SUCH OPERATIONS. BERCKEMEYER, WHO WAS SURROUNDED BY SIX OTHER DGTA AND AEROPERU OFFICIALS, TOOK LINE THAT BRANIFF HAD TRIED TO PUT SOMETHING OVER ON HIM, AND THAT IT WAS ONLY AFTER CAREFUL CHECKING THAT DUPLICITY HAD BEEN DISCOVERED. COUNSELOR SAID HE WAS CERTAIN SITUATION AROSE AS A RESULT OF HONEST MISUNDERSTANDING. DURING COURSE OF MEETING CONSIDERABLE SIDE CONVERSATION TOOK PLACE AMONG OTHERS PRESENT TO THE EFFECT THAT PRESS COMMENTARY HAD BEEN DEPLORABLY ERRONEOUS, THAT CUTBACK IN BRANIFF SERVICES HAD APPEARED TO OCCASION NO DIFFICULTIES FOR PASSENGERS, AND THAT FURTHER EFFORTS MUST BE MADE TO ENCOURAGE AGREEMENT BETWEEN AEROPERU AND BRANIFF.

4. COMMENT: NEITHER CHENEY NOR IRISH CAN RECALL ORAL INDICATION ON BERCKEMEYER'S PART THAT EXTRA FIVE FLIGHTS WOULD BE PERMITTED, BUT THEY COULD EASILY HAVE MISSED THIS DURING RATHER HECTIC DISCUSSIONS ON JANUARY 24. SOUTH AND DE MURIAS ARE CERTAIN THIS WAS THE CASE, AND IT SEEMS TO US THAT MANEUVER WOULD OTHERWISE HAVE BEEN SO TRANSPARENT THAT BRANIFF WOULD NOT HAVE ATTEMPTED IT. MEETING WITH BERCKEMEYER WAS SO STAGED THAT IT APPEARED HE WAS TRYING FOR THE RECORD TO PROTECT HIMSELF FROM POSSIBLE FUTURE CRITICISM.
DEAN

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